Global Optimization

Lecture Outline

- Global flow analysis
- Global constant propagation
- Global dead code elimination
- Liveness analysis

Local Optimization

Recall the simple basic-block optimizations:

- Constant propagation.
- Dead code elimination.

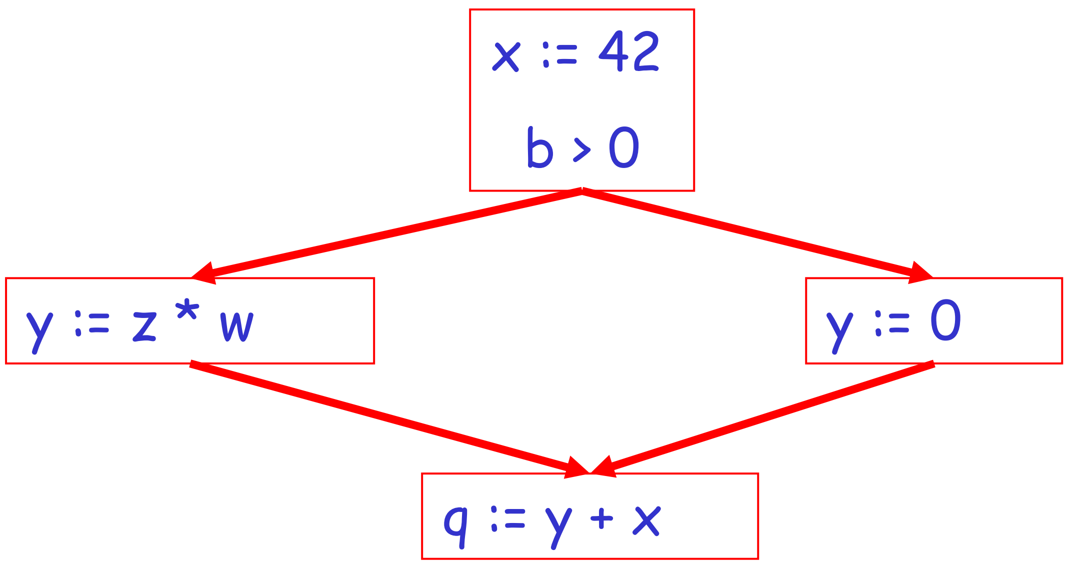
```
x := 42
y := z * w
q := y + x
```

```
x := 42
y := z * w
q := y + 42
```

```
y := z * w
q := y + 42
```

Global Optimization

These optimizations can be extended to an entire control-flow graph.



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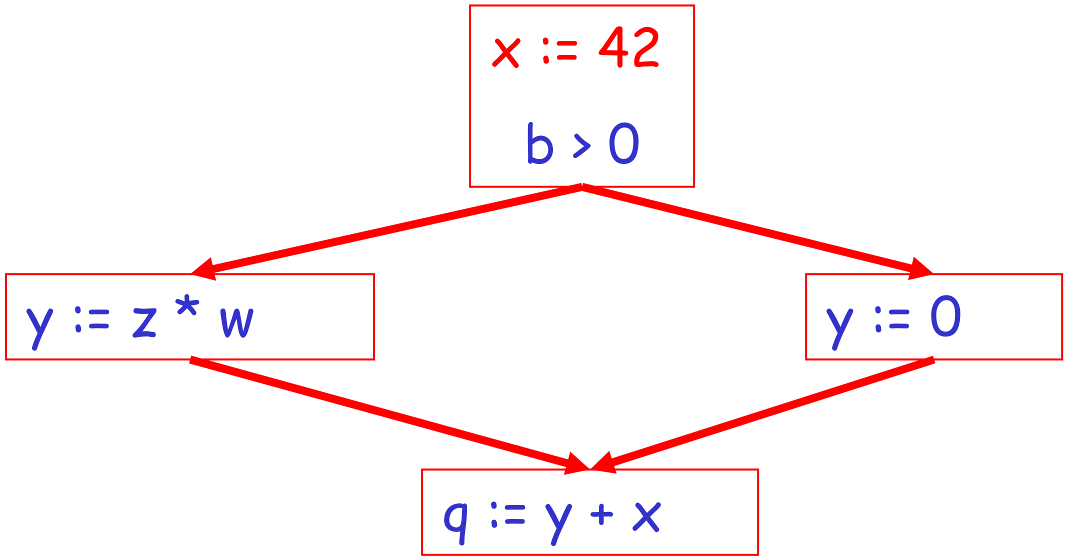

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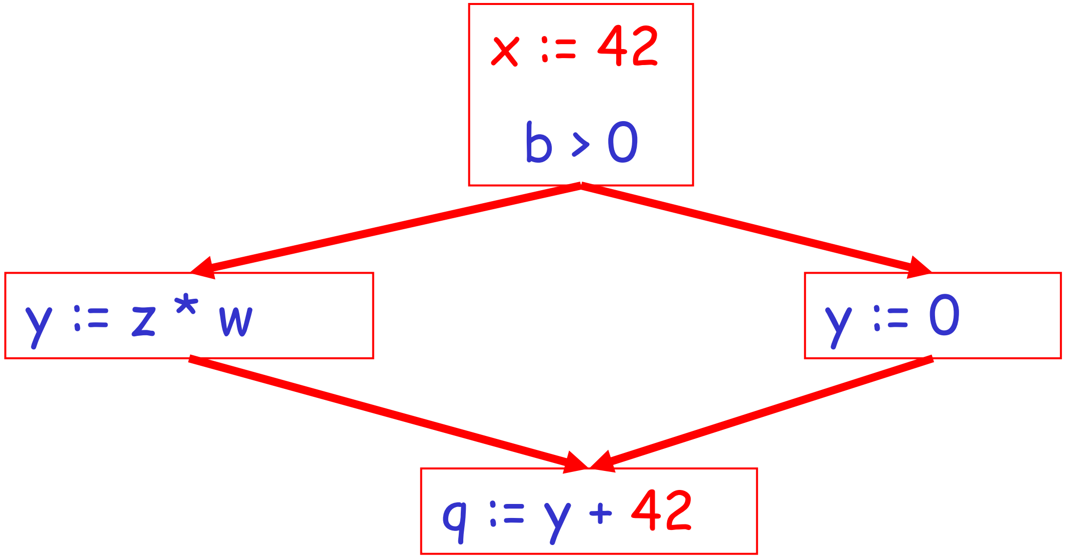
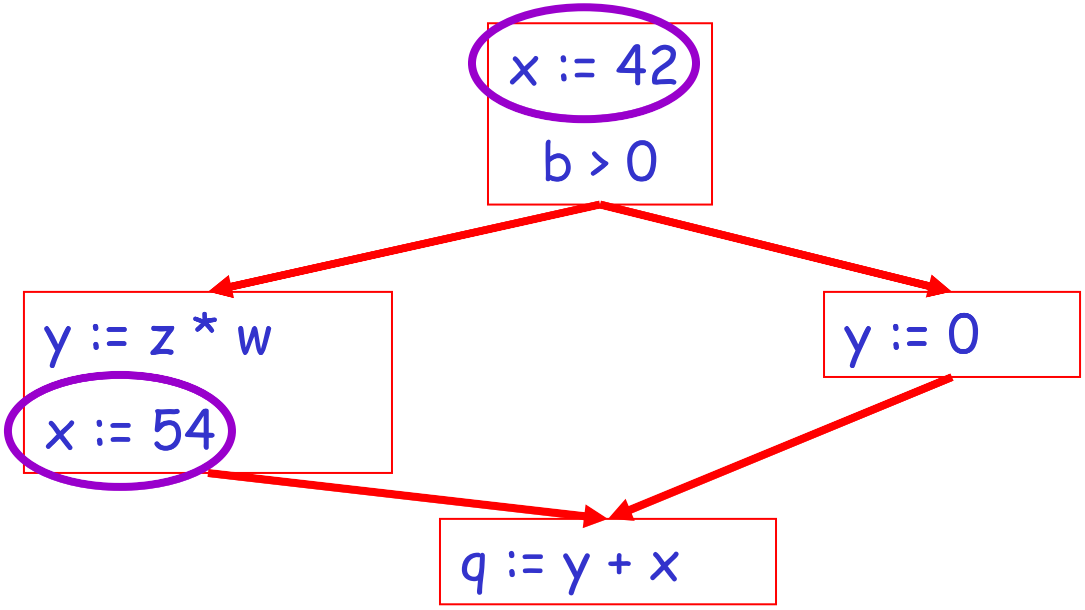


Correctness

- How do we know whether it is OK to globally propagate constants?
- There are situations where it is incorrect:

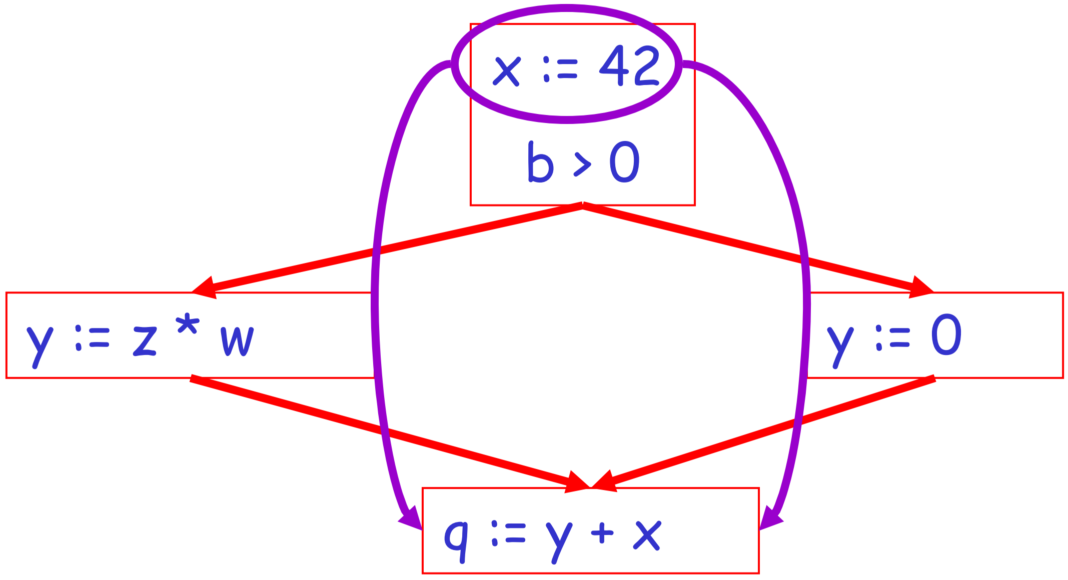


Correctness (Cont.)

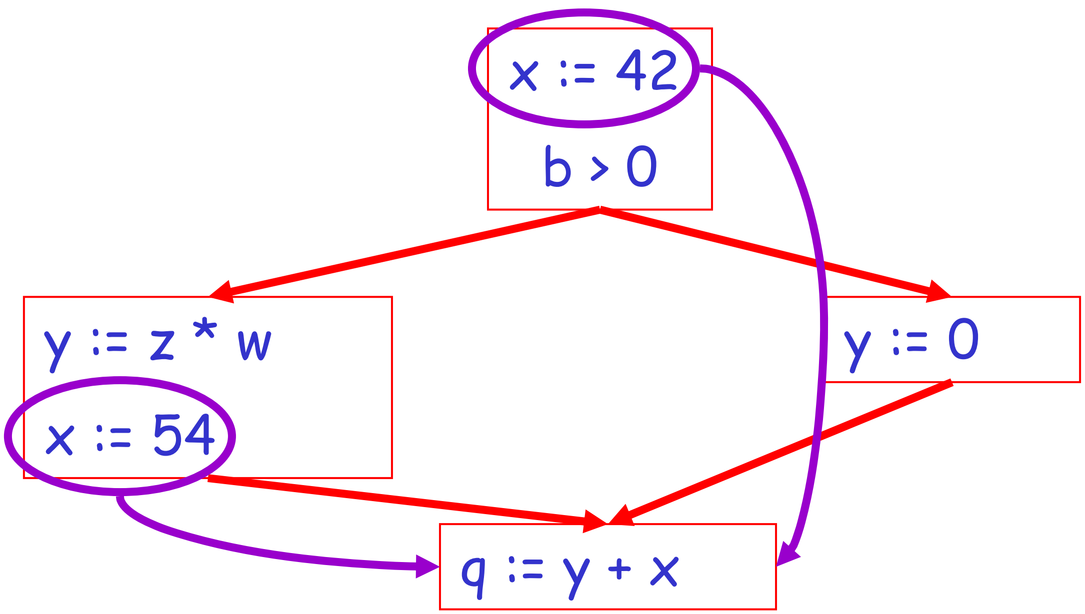
To replace a use of x by a constant k we must know that the following property ** holds:

On every path to the use of x,
the last assignment to x is x := k **

Example 1 Revisited



Example 2 Revisited



Discussion

- The correctness condition is not trivial to check.
- "All paths" includes paths around loops and through branches of conditionals.
- Checking the condition requires *global analysis.*
  - An analysis that determines how data flows over the entire control-flow graph of a function/method.

Global Analysis

Global optimization tasks share several traits:

- The optimization depends on knowing a property P at a particular point in program execution.
- Proving P at any point requires knowledge of the entire function body.
- Property P is typically undecidable !
- It is OK to be conservative: If the optimization requires P to be true, then we want an analysis which tells us:
  - that P is definitely true, or
  - that we don't know whether P is true.
- It is always safe to say "don't know".

  (But goal is to try to say "don't know" as rarely as possible.)

Global Analysis (Cont.)

- *Global dataflow analysis* is a standard technique for solving problems with these characteristics.

- Global constant propagation is one example of an optimization that requires global dataflow analysis.

Global Constant Propagation

- *On every path to the use of x,*
  the last assignment to x is x := k **

- Global constant propagation can be performed at any point where property ** holds.

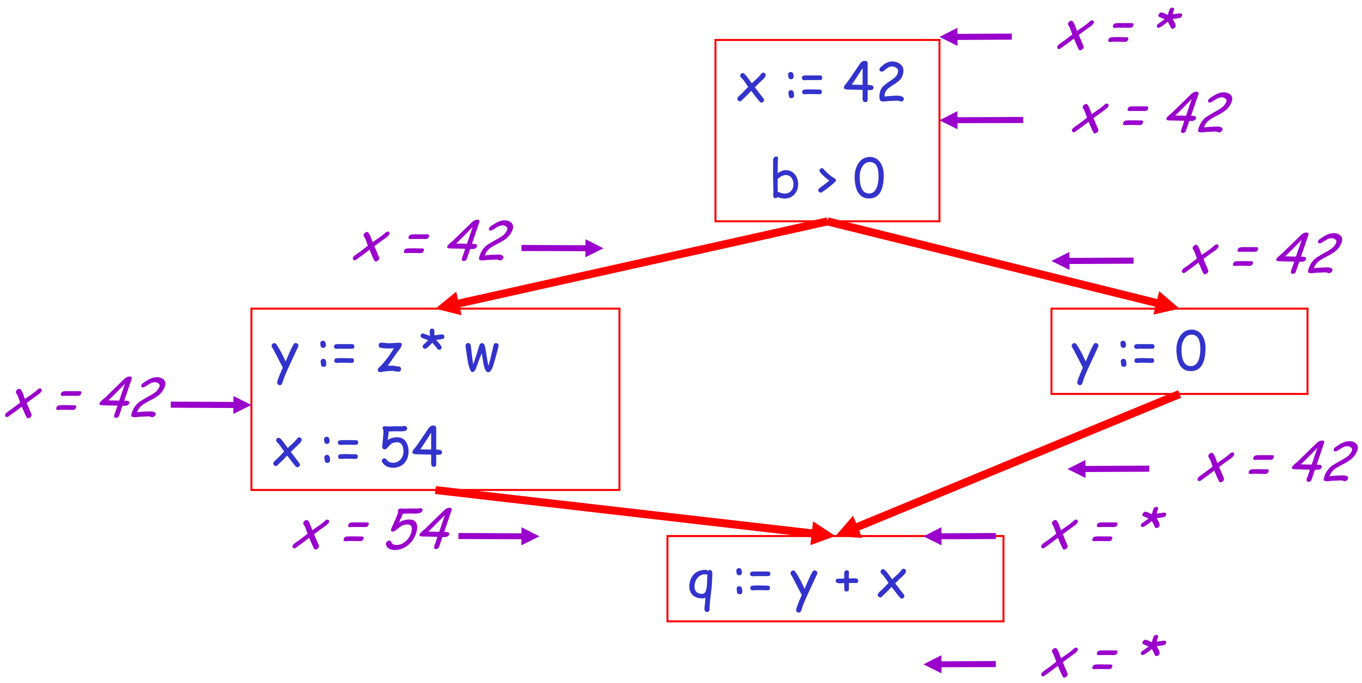
- Consider the case of computing ** for a single variable x at all program points.

Global Constant Propagation (Cont.)

- To make the problem precise, we associate one of the following values with x at every program point:

value	*interpretation*
#	This statement never executes
c_i	x = constant c_i
*	Don't know whether x is a constant

Example



Using the Information

- Given global constant information, it is easy to perform the optimization.
  - Simply inspect the x = ? associated with a statement using x.
  - If x is a constant k at that point replace that use of x by k.

- But how do we compute the properties x = ?

The Analysis Idea

The analysis of a (complicated) program can be expressed as a combination of simple rules relating the change in information between adjacent statements.

Explanation

- The idea is to "push" or "transfer" information from one statement to the next.

- For each statement s, we compute information about the value of x immediately before and after s

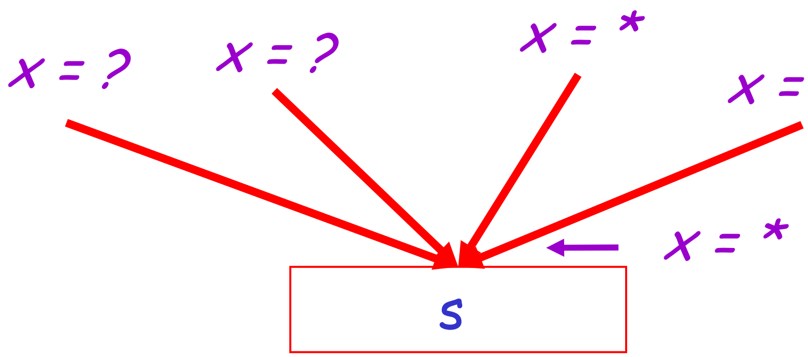
$$C_{in}(x,s) = \text{value of } x \text{ before } s$$
$$C_{out}(x,s) = \text{value of } x \text{ after } s$$

Transfer Functions

- Define a transfer function that transfers information from one statement to another.

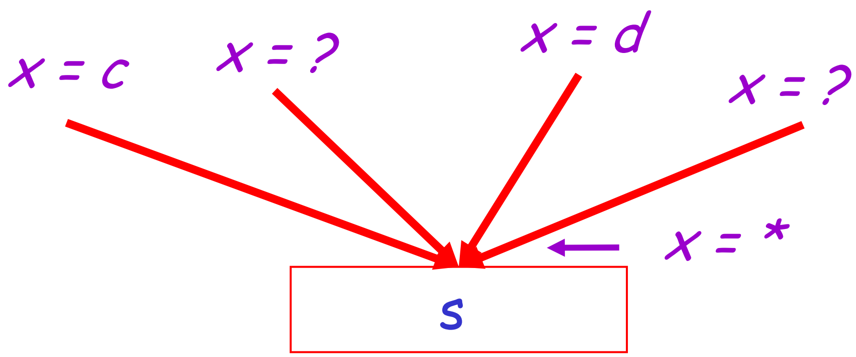
- In the following rules, let statement s have as immediate predecessors statements $p_1,\ldots,p_n$.

Rule 1



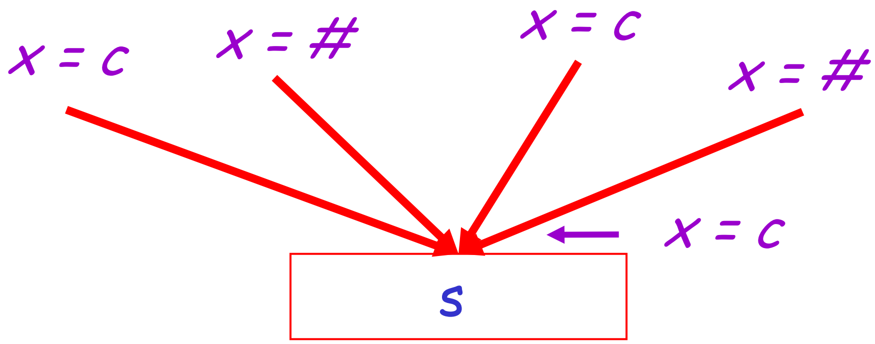
If $C_{out}(x, p_i) = *$ for any i, then $C_{in}(x, s) = *$

Rule 2



If $C_{out}(x, p_i) = c$ and $C_{out}(x, p_j) = d$ and $d \neq c$
then $C_{in}(x, s) = *$

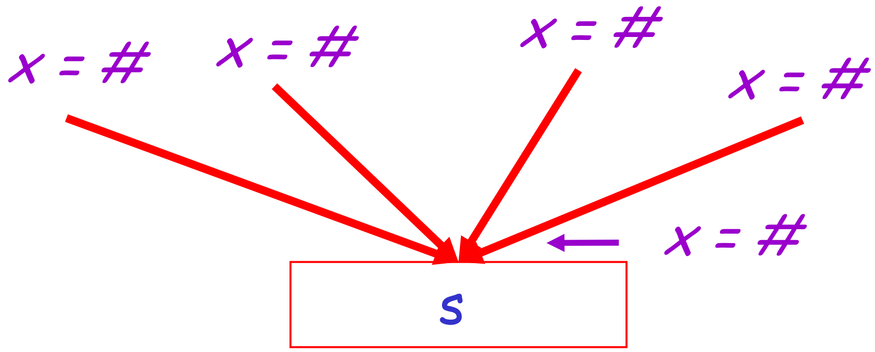
Rule 3



If $C_{out}(x, p_i) = c$ or # for all i,

then $C_{in}(x, s) = c$

Rule 4



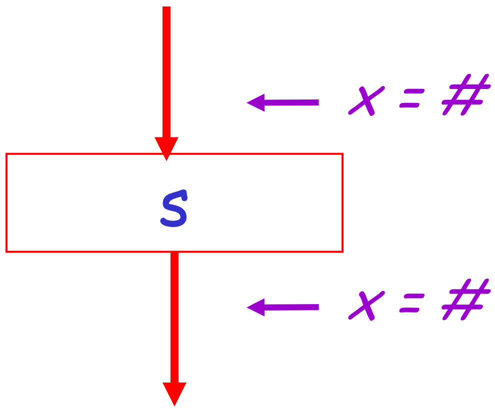
If $C_{out}(x, p_i) = \#$ for all i,
then $C_{in}(x, s) = \#$

The Other Half

- Rules 1-4 relate the *out* of one statement to the *in* of the successor statement.
  - I.e., they propagate information forward across CFG edges.

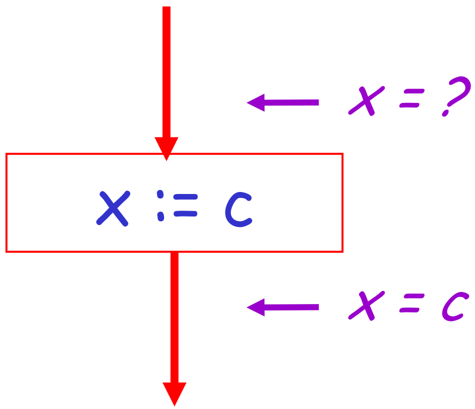
- We also need rules relating the *in* of a statement to the *out* of the same statement.
  - To propagate information across statements.

Rule 5



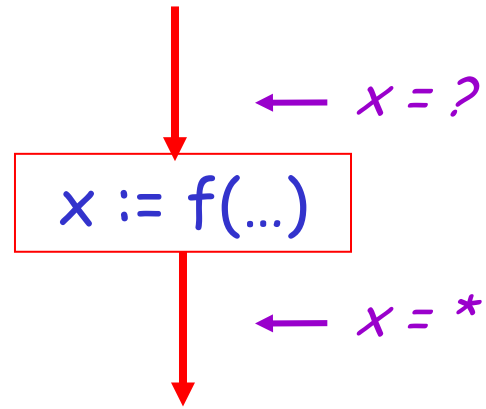
$$C_{out}(x, s) = \# \text{ if } C_{in}(x, s) = \#$$

Rule 6



$C_{out}(x, x := c) = c$ if c is a constant

Rule 7

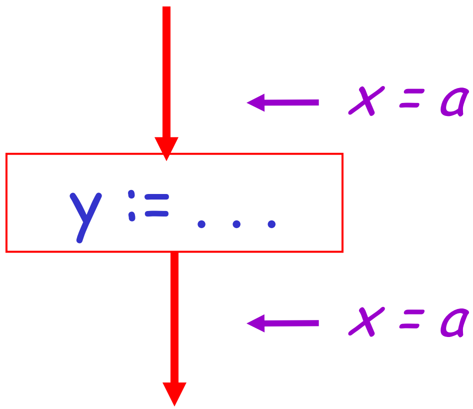


where f is a function other than the one being analyzed

$$C_{out}(x, x := f(...)) = *$$

This rule says that we do not perform inter-procedural analysis (i.e., we do not look at what other functions do).

Rule 8



$$C_{out}(x, y := \ldots) = C_{in}(x, y := \ldots) \text{ if } x \neq y$$

An Algorithm

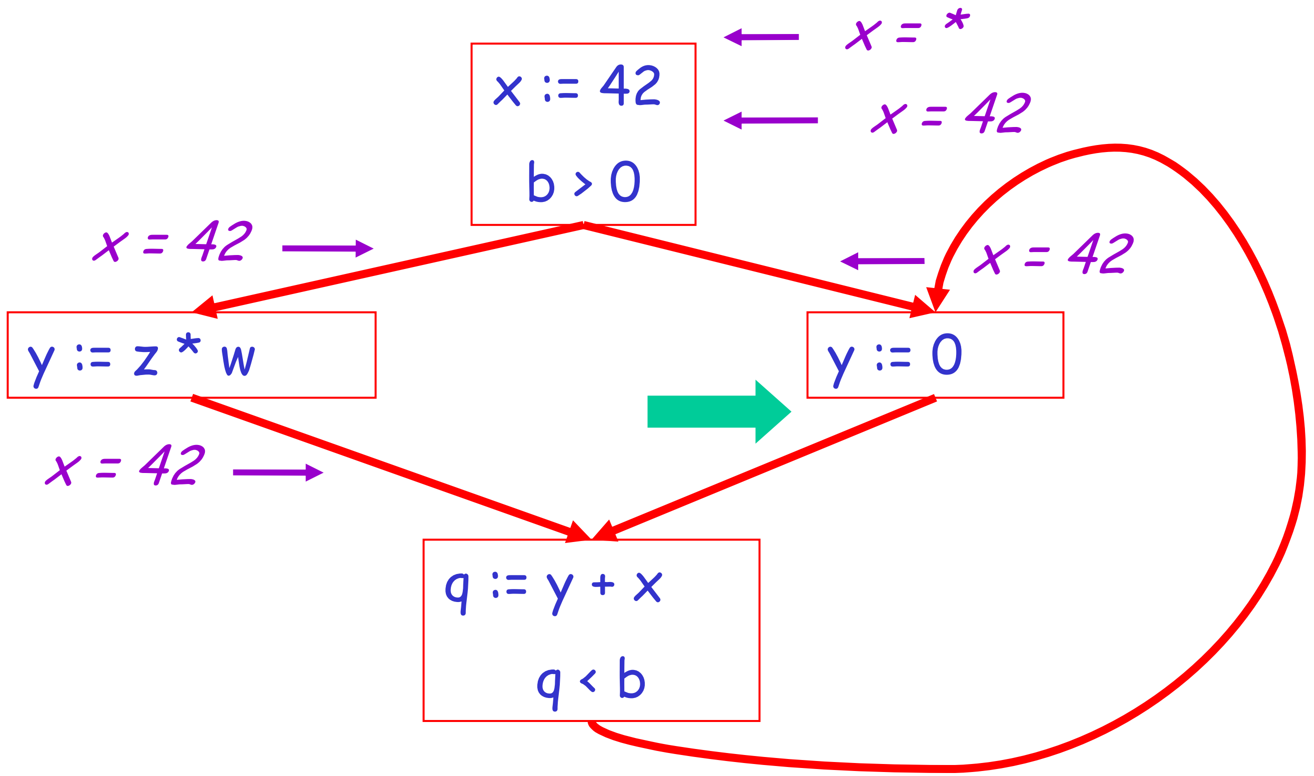
1. For every entry s to the function, set $C_{in}(x, s) = *$

2. Set $C_{in}(x, s) = C_{out}(x, s) = \#$ everywhere else

3. Repeat until all points satisfy 1-8:
   - pick an s not satisfying 1-8 and
   - update using the appropriate rule

The Value

To understand why we need #, look at a loop



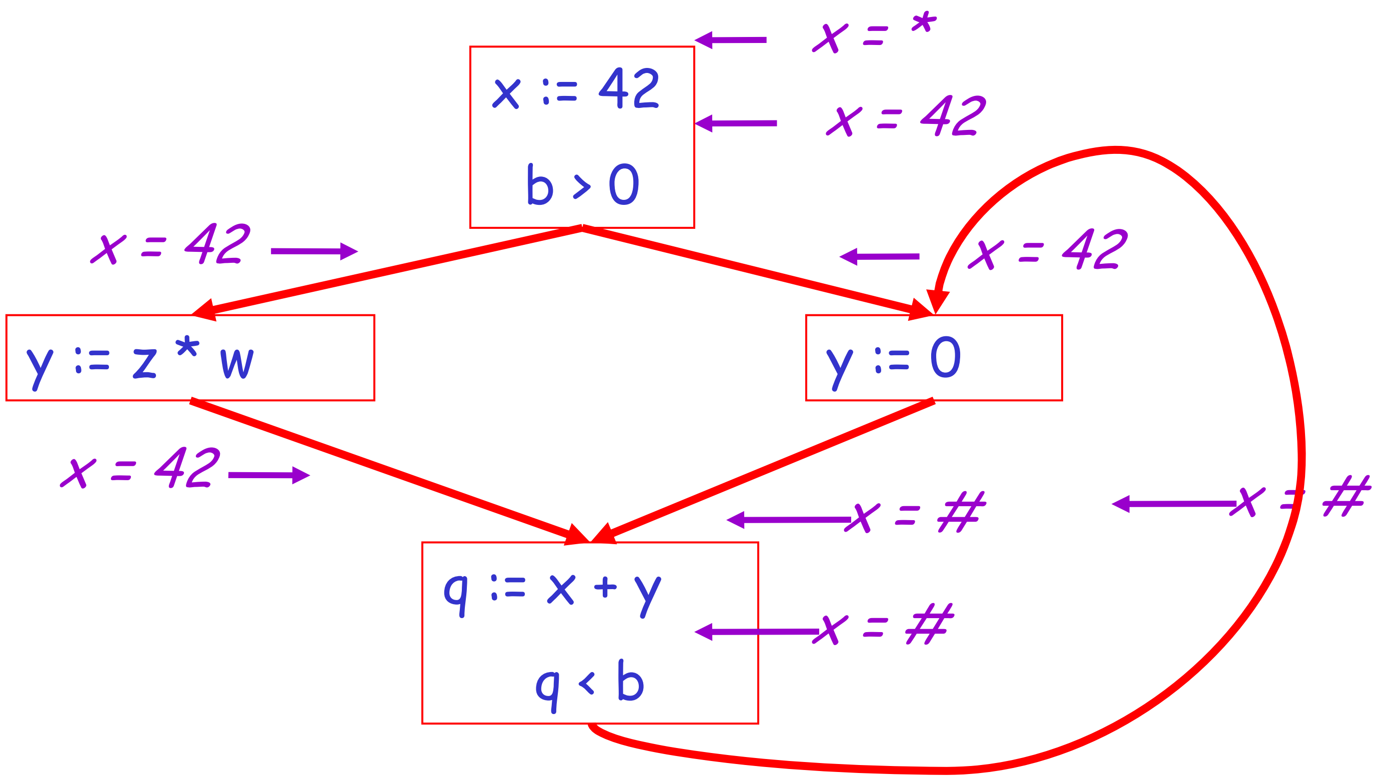
Discussion

- Consider the statement y := 0
- To compute whether x is constant at this point, we need to know whether x is constant at its two predecessors
  - x := 42
  - q := y + x
- But information for q := y + x depends on its predecessors, including y := 0 !

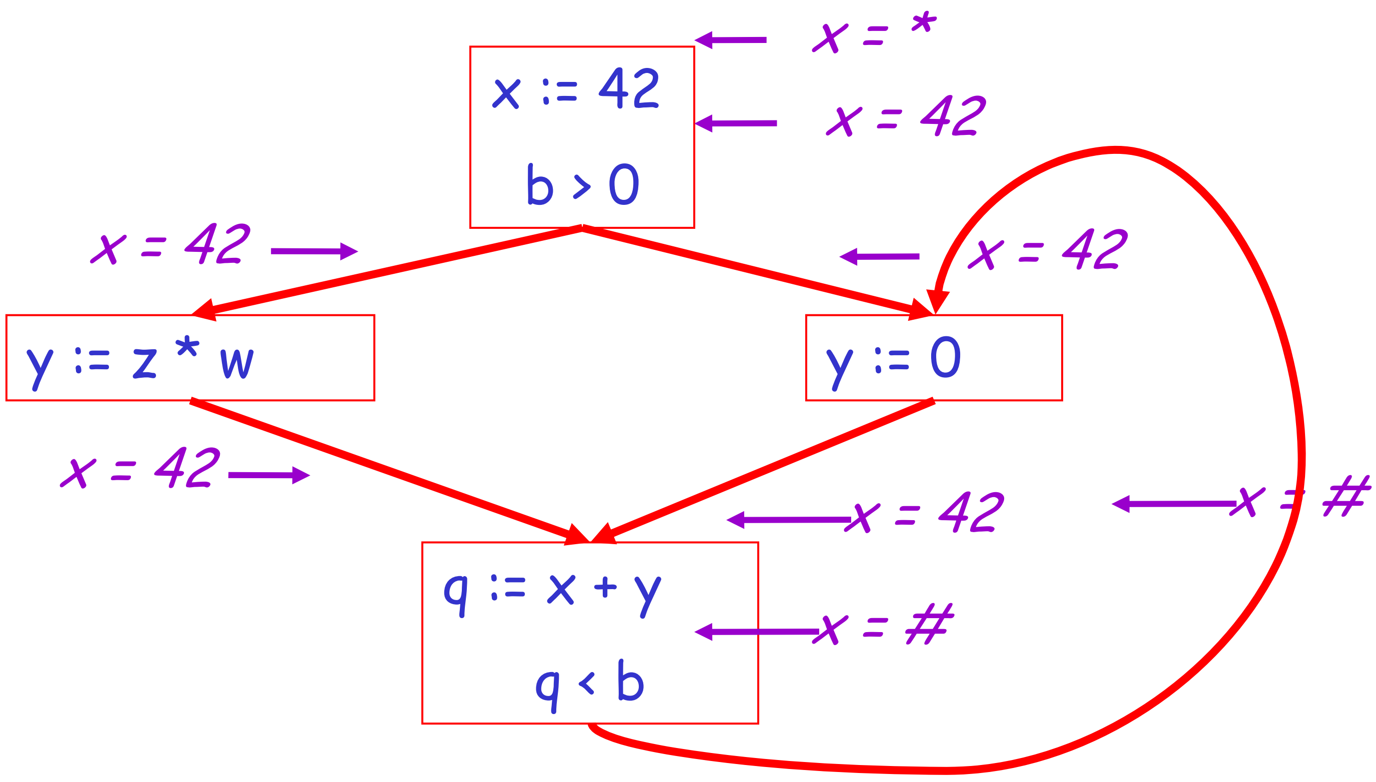
The Value # (Cont.)

- Because of cycles, all points must have values at all times.
- Intuitively, assigning some initial value allows the analysis to break cycles.
- The initial value # means "So far as we know, control never reaches this point".

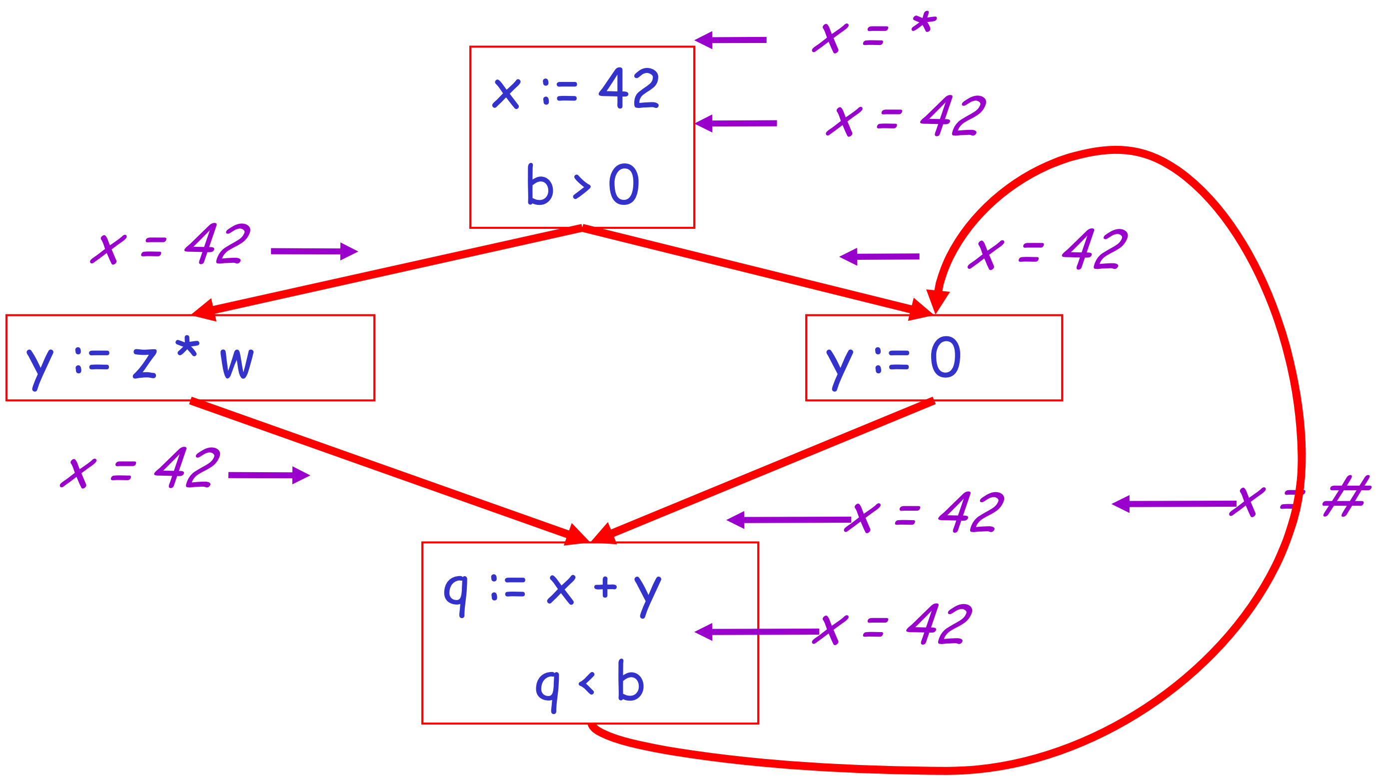
Example



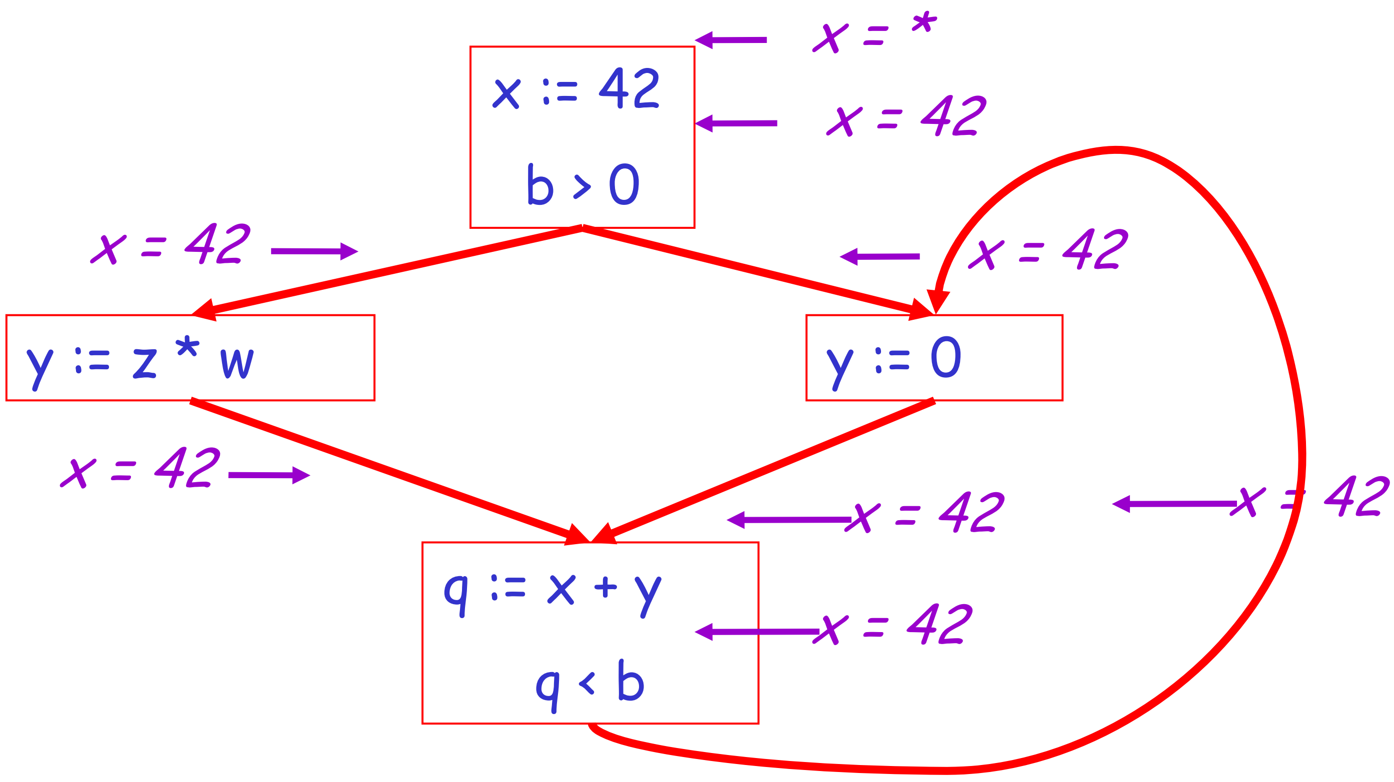
Example



Example



Example

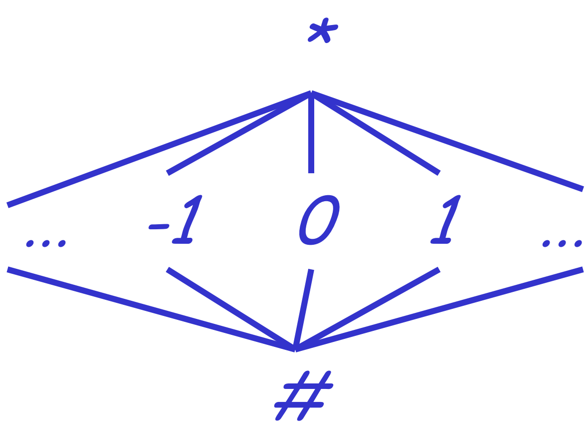


Orderings

- We can simplify the presentation of the analysis by ordering the values

$$\# < c_i < *$$

- Drawing a picture with "lower" values drawn lower, we get



Orderings (Cont.)

- * is the greatest value, # is the least.
  - All constants are in between and incomparable.
- Let lub be the least-upper bound in this ordering.
- Rules 1-4 can be written using lub:

  $C_{in}(x, s) = \text{lub} \{ C_{out}(x, p) \mid p \text{ is a predecessor of } s \}$

Termination

- Simply saying "repeat until nothing changes" does <u>not</u> guarantee that eventually we reach a point where nothing changes.

- The use of lub explains why the algorithm terminates.
  - Values start as # and only *increase*.
  - # can change to a constant, and a constant to *
  - Thus, C_(x, s) can change at most twice.

Termination (Cont.)

Thus, the algorithm is linear in program size.

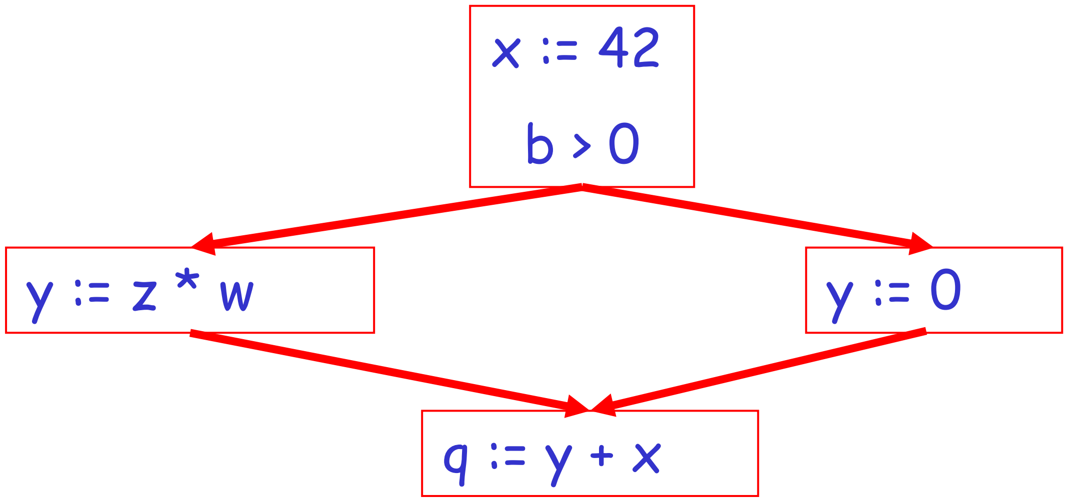
Number of steps = // worst case

Number of C_(....) values computed * 2 =

Number of program statements * 4

Liveness Analysis

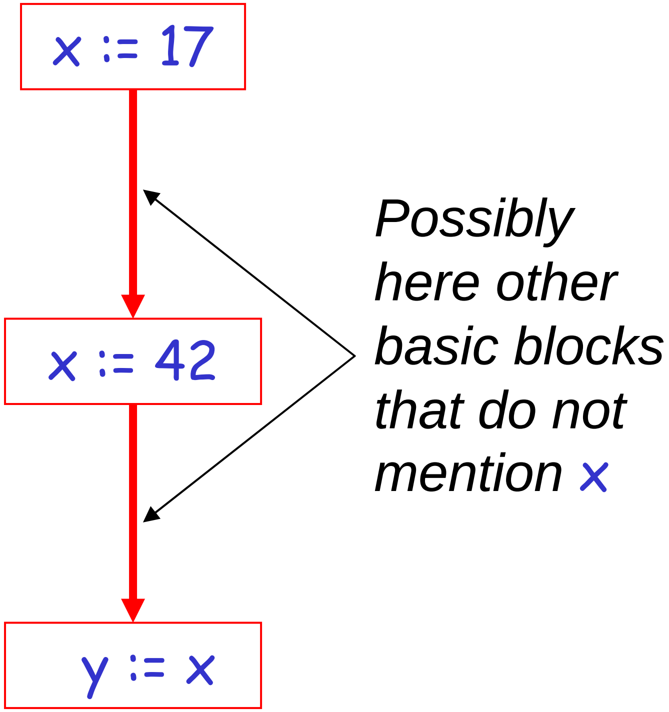
Once constants have been globally propagated, we would like to eliminate dead code.



After constant propagation, x := 42 is dead (assuming x is not used elsewhere).

Live and Dead Variables

- The first value of x is *dead* (never used).
- The second value of x is *live* (may be used).
- Liveness is an important concept for the compiler.



Liveness

A variable x is live at statement s if

- There exists a statement s' that uses x
- There is a path from s to s'
- That path has no intervening assignment to x

Global Dead Code Elimination

- A statement x := … is dead code if x is dead after the assignment.

- Dead statements can be deleted from the program.

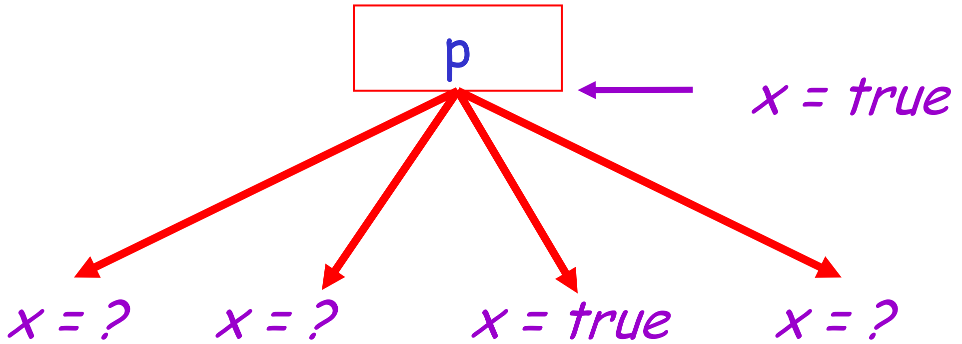
- But we need liveness information first . . .

Computing Liveness

- We can express liveness in terms of information transferred between adjacent statements, just as in constant propagation.

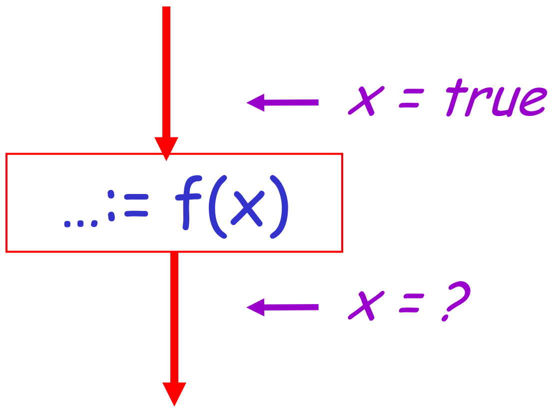
- Liveness is simpler than constant propagation, since it is a boolean property (true or false).

Liveness Rule 1



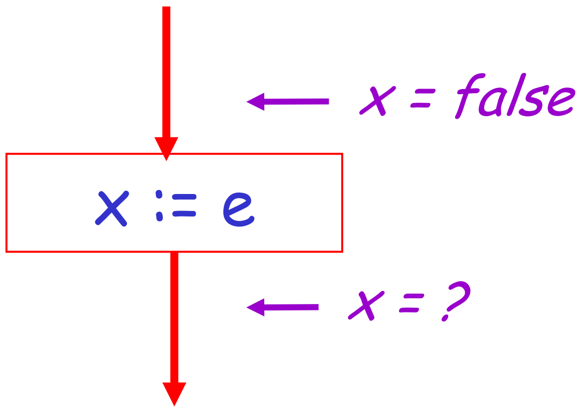
$$L_{out}(x, p) = \vee \{ L_{in}(x, s) \mid s \text{ a successor of } p \}$$

Liveness Rule 2



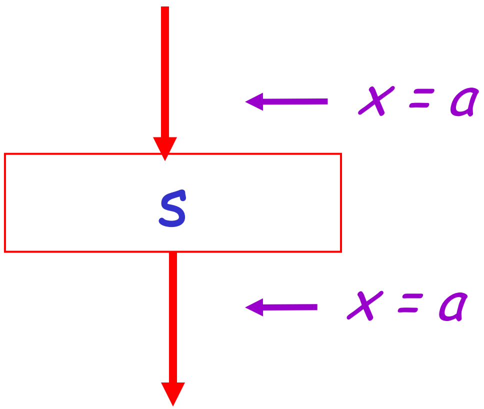
$L_{in}(x, s) = \text{true}$ if s refers to x on the RHS

Liveness Rule 3



$L_{in}(x, x := e) = false$ if e does not refer to x

Liveness Rule 4



$L_{in}(x, s) = L_{out}(x, s)$ if s does not refer to x

Algorithm

1. Let all L_(...) = false initially

2. Repeat until all statements s satisfy rules 1-4
   - pick an s where one of 1-4 does not hold and
   - update using the appropriate rule

Termination

- Each L_(...) value can change from false to true, but not the other way around.
- Each L_(...) value can change only once, so termination is guaranteed.
- Once the analysis information is computed, it is simple to eliminate dead code.

Forward vs. Backward Analysis

We have seen two kinds of analysis:

- An analysis that enables constant propagation:
  - This is a *forwards* analysis: information is pushed from inputs to outputs.
- An analysis that calculates variable liveness:
  - This is a *backwards* analysis: information is pushed from outputs back towards inputs.

Global Flow Analyses

- There are many other global flow analyses.
- Most can be classified as either forward or backward.
- Most also follow the methodology of local rules relating information between adjacent program points.